



GEMINI G.E.L. <sup>AT</sup> JONI MOISANT WEYL

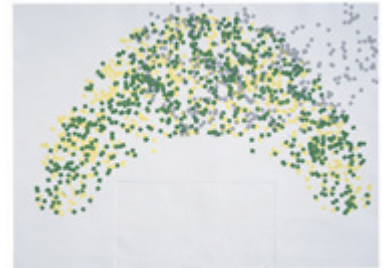
## RICHARD TUTTLE

### Metal Shoes

Gemini G.E.L. at Joni Moisant Weyl is pleased to present eight new editions recently published by Gemini G.E.L. This marks the Los Angeles-based workshop's first collaboration with Richard Tuttle, a postminimalist artist known for fragile objects made of unusual materials such as wire, rope, and scraps of paper. The prints in this series combine the use of aquatint, drypoint, hand stenciling, lithography and embossment.

Over the past four decades, Richard Tuttle has questioned nearly every conceivable artistic convention and critical category to create an enormously inventive body of abstract work – one that embraces and intermingles drawing, painting, collage, book-making, sculpture, and design. From his spare yet enigmatic forms of the 1960s to his complex, multi-faceted assemblages and installations of more recent years, Tuttle's primary impetus throughout has been to craft unique objects, using everyday, often ephemeral materials. Although most of Tuttle's diverse artistic output has taken the form of three-dimensional objects, he commonly refers to his work as drawing rather than sculpture, emphasizing the diminutive scale of most of his work. Tuttle subverts the conventions of modernist sculptural practice (defined by grand heroic gestures, monumental scale, and the 'macho' materials of steel, marble, and bronze) and instead typically creates small, eccentrically playful objects in decidedly humble, even 'pathetic' materials such as paper, rope, string, cloth, wire, twigs, cardboard, bubble wrap, nails, Styrofoam, and plywood. Tuttle also manipulates the space in which his objects exist, placing them unnaturally high or oddly low on a wall.

Although Tuttle tends to work in sculpture, *Metal Shoes* reflects the same interest in space and scale that characterizes much of his work. In this new series, delicately-drawn etched lines with geometric forms meet the artist's forceful hammering of copper plates creating a nuanced sense of physicality. Each print is marked with the grooves and contours made out of dented, cut, torched and scraped metal printing elements.



The series title, *Metal Shoes*, aptly communicates the creative process, particularly when one considers the embossments as dimensional evidence of the artist's presence. Through subtle manipulations of line and form, Tuttle has created delicate works on paper that prove the notion that sometimes "less is more." Tuttle's work is understated, but never muted; by exercising calculated restraint, he creates enigmatic compositions that effortlessly draw the viewer into his abstract universe.

*Metal Shoes* will be on view from January 20 – February 27, 2010, at Gemini G.E.L. at Joni Moisant Weyl.

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